

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

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DEPT PASS LABOR DEPT.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EEC

SUBJECT: EC/USG CONSULTATIONS ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 11534

1. FROM WASHINGTON REPORTS AND FROM ACCOUNTS WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM EC COMMISSION PARTICIPANTS HERE, MISSION GATHERS THAT VISIT OF EC DELEGATION NOVEMBER 11-12 WAS A USEFUL START IN DEVELOPING A DIALOGUE BETWEEN US AND EC ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS. WHILE THE IMPENDING CHANGEOVER TO A NEW EC COMMISSION WAS UNDOUBTEDLY A FACTOR, WE NEVERTHELESS REGRET THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE THE NEXT STEPS IN THIS DIALOGUE.

2. SOMETIME AFTER NEXT COMMISSION TAKES OFFICE, I INTEND TO DISCUSS WITH THE NEW COMMISSIONER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS WAYS BY WHICH WE MIGHT CONTINUE AND EXPAND THIS DIALOGUE. IN MEANTIME, WE WILL FOLLOW UP WITH DEGIMBE, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS, WHOSE PARTICIPATION IN THE WASHINGTON VISIT REINFORCED HIS BELIEF IN THE IMPORTANCE OF US/EC CONSULTATION ON ISSUES LIKE UNEMPLOYMENT, "MIGRANT" (FOREIGN) WORKERS, AND WOMEN IN THE LABOR FORCE. AS NOTED REFTEL, HE SUGGESTED THAT, PENDING THE INAUGURATION

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OF A MORE FORMAL DIALOGUE, WE SEEK FURTHER OCCASIONS

FOR INFORMAL CONTACT. HE SAID HE WOULD WELCOME INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH USG OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO MIGHT PASS THROUGH BRUSSELS ENROUTE TO SESSIONS AT THE OECD OR THE ILO.

3. COMMENT: I BELIEVE DEGIMBE'S SUGGESTION HAS A GREAT DEAL OF MERIT, SINCE THE TYPE OF INFORMAL MEETING HE HAS SUGGESTED COULD HELP TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR MORE STRUCTURED CONTACTS LATER. HIS INVITATION APPLIES PARTICULARLY TO BOTH LABOR DEPARTMENT AND STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. IT WOULD, FOR EXAMPLE, BE VERY USEFUL IF DALE GOOD OF S/IL COULD FIND THE TIME TO VISIT BRUSSELS TO CONSULT WITH EC OFFICIALS ON INTERNATIONAL LABOR MATTERS. HINTON

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